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5. PROBABLE FIRST SIGHTING OF DARK MORPH OF EASTERN CATTLE-EGRET *BUBULCUS COROMANDUS* FROM LAKHIMPUR KHERI, UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA

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I spotted a dark morph of Eastern Cattle-Egret *Bubulcus coromandus* on June 22, 2011, at Alinagar village, Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh, India. It behaved like the normal birds, but did not 'socialise' with them. At first sight, it appeared that the bird was soiled as it was the rainy season. But after careful observations for more than two months, I confirmed that its dark coloration was true. Had the dark colour not been a case of hyper-pigmentation, it would either have been washed off or faded by that time. I did not visit the place after that.

This is probably the first record of what could be a dark morph or aberrant form of the Eastern Cattle-Egret.



Eastern Cattle-Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

6. NEW RECORD OF COMMON COOT *FULICA ATRA* LINNAEUS, 1758 FROM ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS, INDIA

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The Andaman and Nicobar archipelago comprises of 572 islands, extending over 800 km and running north to south between 6° 45' N and 13° 30' N, and between 90° 20' E and 93° 56' E with extent of 8,249 sq. km.

The study on birds of Andaman and Nicobar Islands was initiated by Beavan (1867) listing the avifauna of Andaman Islands, followed by Hume (1873, 1874 a, b, 1876), Abdulali (1964, 1965, 1967, 1971, 1979, 1981). Recently, a few researchers have contributed to the avifauna of Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Chandra and Kumar 1994; Ezhilarsi and Vijayan 2006; Kailash and Rajan 1994; Pande *et al.* 2007;

Sankaran 1995, 1998, 2001; Sankaran and Vijayan 1993; Sivakumar 2007; Sivakumar and Sankaran 2002; Sivaperuman *et al.* 2010; Tikader 1984; Vijayan 1996, 2007; Yahya and Zarri 2003; Yoganand and Davidar 2000).

As part of major ecological studies on wetland birds of south Andamans initiated during 2012, and sponsored by the Science Engineering Research Board (SERB), Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi, we have been surveying the area regularly. During these surveys, seven individuals of Common Coot *Fulica atra* were recorded in the tsunami inundated wetlands at Sippighat, South